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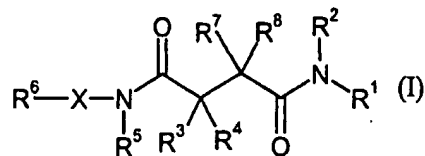
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(54) Title: SUCCINIC ACID DERIVATIVES

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to compounds of the general for-
mula (I), processes for their preparation, pharmaceutical compositions contain-
ing them as well as their use for the production of pharmaceutical compositions
for the treatment of inflammatory diseases.

Succinic acid derivatives

The present invention relates to compounds of formula (I),



5

their preparation and use as pharmaceutical compositions as integrin antagonists, especially as $\alpha_4\beta_1$ and/or $\alpha_4\beta_7$ and/or $\alpha_9\beta_1$ integrin antagonists and in particular for the production of pharmaceutical compositions suitable for the inhibition or the prevention of cell adhesion and cell-adhesion mediated disorders.

10

Adhesive interactions between the leukocytes and endothelial cells play a critical role in leukocyte trafficking to sites of inflammation. These events are essential for normal host defense against pathogens and repair of tissue damage, but can also contribute to the pathology of a variety of inflammatory and autoimmune disorders. Indeed, eosinophil and T cell infiltration into the tissue is known as a cardinal feature of allergic inflammation such as asthma.

15

The interaction of circulating leukocytes with adhesion molecules on the luminal surface of blood vessels appears to modulate leukocyte transmigration. These vascular cell adhesion molecules arrest circulating leukocytes, thereby serving as the first step in their recruitment to infected or inflamed tissue sites. Subsequently, the leukocytes reaching the extravascular space interact with connective tissue cells such as fibroblasts as well as extracellular matrix proteins such as fibronectin, laminin, and collagen. Adhesion molecules on the leukocytes and on the vascular endothelium are hence essential to leukocyte migration and attractive therapeutic targets for intervention in many inflammatory disorders.

20

25

Leukocyte recruitment to sites of inflammation occurs in a stepwise fashion beginning with leukocyte tethering to the endothelial cells lining the blood vessels. This is followed by leukocyte rolling, activation, firm adhesion, and transmigration. A number of cell adhesion molecules involved in those four recruitment steps have
5 been identified and characterized to date. Among them, the interaction between vascular cell adhesion molecule 1 (VCAM-1) and very late antigen 4 (VLA-4, $\alpha_4\beta_1$ integrin), as well as the interaction between mucosal addressin cell adhesion molecule 1 (MAdCAM-1) and $\alpha_4\beta_7$ integrin, has been shown to mediate the tethering, rolling, and adhesion of lymphocytes and eosinophils, but not neutrophils,
10 to endothelial cells under a physiologic flow condition. This suggests that the VCAM-1 / VLA-4 and/or MAdCAM-1 / $\alpha_4\beta_7$ integrin mediated interactions could predominantly mediate a selective recruitment of leukocyte subpopulations *in vivo*. The inhibition of this interaction is a point of departure for therapeutic intervention (A. J. Wardlaw, *J. Allergy Clin. Immunol.* 1999, 104, 917-26).

15 VCAM-1 is a member of immunoglobulin (Ig) superfamily and is one of the key regulators of leukocyte trafficking to sites of inflammation. VCAM-1, along with intracellular adhesion molecule 1 (ICAM-1) and E-selectin, is expressed on inflamed endothelium activated by such cytokines as interleukin 1 (IL-1) and tumor necrosis
20 factor α (TNF- α), as well as by lipopolysaccharide (LPS), via nuclear factor κ B (NF- κ B) dependent pathway. However, these molecules are not expressed on resting endothelium. Cell adhesion mediated by VCAM-1 may be involved in numerous physiological and pathological processes including myogenesis, hematopoiesis, inflammatory reactions, and the development of autoimmune disorders. Integrins
25 VLA-4 and $\alpha_4\beta_7$ both function as leukocyte receptors for VCAM-1.

The integrin $\alpha_4\beta_1$ is a heterodimeric protein expressed in substantial levels on all circulating leukocytes except mature neutrophils. It regulates cell migration into tissues during inflammatory responses and normal lymphocyte trafficking. VLA-4
30 binds to different primary sequence determinants, such as a QIDSP motif of

VCAM-1 and an ILDVP sequence of the major cell type-specific adhesion site of the alternatively spliced type III connecting segment domain (CS-1) of fibronectin.

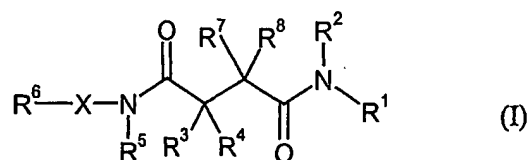
In vivo studies with neutralizing monoclonal antibodies and inhibitor peptides have demonstrated a critical role for α_4 integrins interaction in leukocyte-mediated inflammation. Blocking of VLA-4/ligand interactions, thus, holds promise for therapeutic intervention in a variety of inflammatory, autoimmune and immune diseases (Zimmerman, C.; *Exp. Opin. Ther. Patents* 1999, 9, 129-133).

Furthermore, compounds containing a bisarylurea moiety as a substituent were disclosed as $\alpha_4\beta_1$ integrin receptor antagonists: WO 96/22966, WO 97/03094, WO99/20272, WO99/26923, WO 99/33789, WO 99/37605, WO 00/00477. However, no β -amino acids or homologues thereof with $\alpha_4\beta_1$ integrin receptor antagonistic activity have been described.

Further to their $\alpha_4\beta_1$ integrin antagonistic activity, the compounds of the present invention may also be used as $\alpha_4\beta_7$ or $\alpha_9\beta_1$ integrin antagonists.

An object of the present invention is to provide new succinic acid or homologues thereof derived integrin antagonists for the treatment of inflammatory, autoimmune and immune diseases.

The present invention therefore relates to compounds of the general formula (I)



wherein

R^1 represents a 4- to 9-membered saturated, unsaturated or aromatic cyclic residue,

5 which can contain 0 to 3 heteroatoms selected independently from the group N, S and O,

and wherein R^1 is substituted by $-R^{1-1}-Z$,
wherein

10 R^{1-1} represents a bond, $-O-$, $-S-$, NR^{1-2} , C_1-C_{10} alkyl, C_2-C_{10} alkenyl, C_2-C_{10} alkynyl, C_6 or C_{10} aryl, C_3-C_7 cycloalkyl or a 4-9-membered saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic residue containing up to 3 heteroatoms selected from the group oxygen, nitrogen or sulfur,

15 wherein R^{1-1} can optionally be substituted by 1 to 2 substituents selected from the group R^{1-3} ,

wherein R^{1-2} can optionally be hydrogen, C_1-C_{10} alkyl, C_2-C_{10} alkenyl or C_2-C_{10} alkynyl, and

20

wherein R^{1-3} represents hydrogen, C_1-C_{10} alkyl, C_2-C_{10} alkenyl, C_2-C_{10} alkynyl, C_6 or C_{10} aryl, C_3-C_7 cycloalkyl or a 4-9-membered saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic residue containing up to 3 heteroatoms selected from the group oxygen, nitrogen or sulfur,

25

Z represents $-C(O)OR^{Z-1}$, $-C(O)NR^{Z-2}R^{Z-3}$, $-SO_2NR^{Z-2}R^{Z-3}$, $-SO(OR^{Z-1})$, $-SO_2(OR^{Z-1})$, $-P(O)R^{Z-1}(OR^{Z-3})$ or $-PO(OR^{Z-1})(OR^{Z-3})$,

30

wherein R^{Z-2} is hydrogen, C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_2-C_6 alkenyl, C_2-C_6 alkynyl, C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl, C_6 or C_{10} aryl, $-C(O)R^{Z-4}$ or $-SO_2R^{Z-4}$,

- 5 -

wherein R^{Z-4} is C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_2-C_6 alkenyl, C_2-C_6 alkynyl, C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl, C_6 or C_{10} aryl,

5 R^{Z-1} and R^{Z-3} are independently selected from the group hydrogen, C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_2-C_6 alkenyl, C_2-C_6 alkynyl, C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl, C_6 or C_{10} aryl or benzyl,

10 wherein R^{Z-1} and R^{Z-3} can optionally be substituted by 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_1-C_4 alkyloxy, halogen, nitro, cyano,

and wherein R^1 can optionally be substituted by 0 to 2 substituents R^{1-4} , halogen, nitro, amino, cyano and oxo,

15 wherein

R^{1-4} is selected from the group C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_1-C_4 alkyloxy, phenyl, phenoxy, phenylamino, C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl,

20 R^2 represents hydrogen, C_1-C_{10} alkyl, C_2-C_{10} alkenyl, C_2-C_{10} alkynyl, C_6 or C_{10} aryl or C_3-C_7 cycloalkyl,

25 wherein R^2 can optionally be substituted by 1 to 3 radicals independently selected from the group C_1-C_4 alkyl, trifluormethyl, trifluormethoxy, halogen, cyano, nitro or oxo,

30 R^3 represents hydrogen, C_1-C_{10} alkyl, C_2-C_{10} alkenyl, C_2-C_{10} alkynyl, C_6 or C_{10} aryl, C_3-C_7 cycloalkyl or a 4-9-membered saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic residue containing up to 2 heteroatoms selected from the group oxygen, nitrogen or sulfur,

wherein R^3 can optionally be substituted by 1 to 3 radicals R^{3-1} ,

5 wherein R^{3-1} represents C_1 - C_4 alkyl, trifluormethyl, trifluoromethoxy, $-OR^{3-2}$, $-SR^{3-2}$, $NR^{3-3}R^{3-4}$, $-C(O)R^{3-2}$, $S(O)R^{3-2}$, $-SO_2R^{3-2}$, $-OC(O)R^{3-2}$, $-C(O)NR^{3-3}R^{3-4}$, $-NR^{3-2}C(O)R^{3-3}$, $-SO_2NR^{3-3}R^{3-4}$, $NR^{3-2}SO_2R^{3-3}$, $-NR^{3-2}C(O)NR^{3-3}R^{3-4}$, $-NR^{3-2}C(O)OR^{3-3}$, $-OC(O)NR^{3-3}R^{3-4}$, $-CO_2R^{3-5}$, halogen, cyano, nitro or oxo,

10 wherein R^{3-2} represents hydrogen, C_1 - C_4 alkyl, C_3 - C_6 cycloalkyl, C_6 or C_{10} aryl,

wherein R^{3-3} and R^{3-4} are independently selected from the group hydrogen, C_1 - C_4 alkyl, C_3 - C_6 cycloalkyl, C_6 or C_{10} aryl or benzyl,

15 and wherein R^{3-5} represents C_1 - C_4 alkyl, C_3 - C_6 cycloalkyl, C_6 or C_{10} aryl,

20 R^4 represents hydrogen, C_1 - C_{10} alkyl, C_2 - C_{10} alkenyl, C_2 - C_{10} alkynyl, C_6 or C_{10} aryl, C_3 - C_7 cycloalkyl or a 4-9-membered saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic residue containing up to 2 heteroatoms selected from the group oxygen, nitrogen or sulfur,

wherein R^4 can optionally be substituted by 1 to 3 radicals R^{4-1} ,

25 wherein R^{4-1} represents C_1 - C_4 alkyl, trifluormethyl, trifluoromethoxy, $-OR^{4-2}$, $-SR^{4-2}$, $NR^{4-3}R^{4-4}$, $-C(O)R^{4-2}$, $S(O)R^{4-2}$, $-SO_2R^{4-2}$, $-OC(O)R^{4-2}$, $-C(O)NR^{4-3}R^{4-4}$, $-NR^{4-2}C(O)R^{4-3}$, $-SO_2NR^{4-3}R^{4-4}$, $NR^{4-2}SO_2R^{4-3}$, $-NR^{4-2}C(O)NR^{4-3}R^{4-4}$, $-NR^{4-2}C(O)OR^{4-3}$, $-OC(O)NR^{4-3}R^{4-4}$, $-CO_2R^{4-5}$, halogen, cyano, nitro or oxo,

30 wherein R^{4-2} represents hydrogen, C_1 - C_4 alkyl, C_3 - C_6 cycloalkyl, C_6 or C_{10} aryl,

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wherein R^{4-3} and R^{4-4} are independently selected from the group hydrogen, C_1 - C_4 alkyl, C_3 - C_6 cycloalkyl, C_6 or C_{10} aryl or benzyl,

5 and wherein R^{4-5} represents C_1 - C_4 alkyl, C_3 - C_6 cycloalkyl, C_6 or C_{10} aryl

or

10 R^3 and R^4 together with the carbon atom to which they are attached form a 4-7-membered saturated or unsaturated ring containing up to 2 heteroatoms selected from the group oxygen, nitrogen or sulfur, which can optionally be substituted by 1 to 2 substituents selected from the group C_1 - C_4 alkyl, phenyl, benzyl, C_3 - C_7 cycloalkyl, C_1 - C_4 alkyloxy, halogen, nitro, cyano, oxo and which can be fused with a 3-7
15 membered homocyclic or heterocyclic, saturated, unsaturated or aromatic ring,

R^5 represents hydrogen, C_1 - C_{10} alkyl, C_2 - C_{10} alkenyl, C_2 - C_{10} alkynyl, C_6 or C_{10} aryl or C_3 - C_7 cycloalkyl,

20

wherein R^5 can optionally up to threefoldedly be substituted by C_1 - C_4 alkyl, trifluormethyl, trifluoromethoxy, halogen, cyano, nitro or oxo,

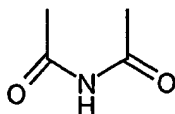
25 R^6 represents phenyl or a 5- to 6-membered aromatic heterocyclic residue containing up to 3 heteroatoms independently selected from the group oxygen, nitrogen or sulfur,

wherein R^6 is substituted by $-NR^{6-2}C(O)NR^{6-3}R^{6-4}$ or $-NR^{6-2}C(S)NR^{6-3}R^{6-4}$ and can furthermore optionally be substituted by halogen,

30

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wherein R^{6-2} and R^{6-3} are independently selected from the group hydrogen or C_1 - C_4 alkyl, or together form a group

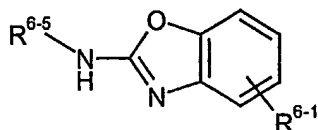


and wherein R^{6-4} represents phenyl,

wherein R^{6-4} can optionally be substituted by 1-2 substituents selected from the group C_1 - C_4 alkyl, C_1 - C_4 alkyloxy, halogen, nitro, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy or cyano,

or

R^6 represents a group



wherein R^{6-1} represents a substituent selected from the group hydrogen, C_1 - C_4 alkyl, C_1 - C_4 alkyloxy, halogen, nitro, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy or cyano,

and

wherein R^{6-5} represents a substituent selected from the group hydrogen, C_1 - C_4 alkyl, C_1 - C_4 alkyloxy, halogen, nitro, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy or cyano,

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R^7 represents hydrogen, C_1 - C_{10} alkyl, C_2 - C_{10} alkenyl, C_2 - C_{10} alkynyl, C_6 or C_{10} aryl, C_3 - C_7 cycloalkyl or a 4-9-membered saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic residue containing up to 2 heteroatoms selected from the group oxygen, nitrogen or sulfur,

5

wherein R^7 can optionally be substituted by 1 to 3 radicals R^{7-1} ,

wherein R^{7-1} represents C_1 - C_4 alkyl, trifluormethyl, trifluoromethoxy, $-OR^{7-2}$, $-SR^{7-2}$, $NR^{7-3}R^{7-4}$, $-C(O)R^{7-2}$, $S(O)R^{7-2}$, $-SO_2R^{7-2}$, $-OC(O)R^{7-2}$,
 10 $-C(O)NR^{7-3}R^{7-4}$, $-NR^{7-2}C(O)R^{7-3}$, $-SO_2NR^{7-3}R^{7-4}$, $NR^{7-2}SO_2R^{7-3}$,
 $-NR^{7-2}C(O)NR^{7-3}R^{7-4}$, $-NR^{7-2}C(O)OR^{7-3}$, $-OC(O)NR^{7-3}R^{7-4}$, $-CO_2R^{7-5}$,
 halogen, cyano, nitro or oxo,

wherein R^{7-2} represents hydrogen, C_1 - C_4 alkyl, C_3 - C_6 cycloalkyl, C_6 or C_{10}
 15 aryl,

wherein R^{7-3} and R^{7-4} are independently selected from the group hydrogen, C_1 - C_4 alkyl, C_3 - C_6 cycloalkyl, C_6 or C_{10} aryl or benzyl,

20 and wherein R^{7-5} represents C_1 - C_4 alkyl, C_3 - C_6 cycloalkyl, C_6 or C_{10} aryl

R^8 represents hydrogen, C_1 - C_{10} alkyl, C_2 - C_{10} alkenyl, C_2 - C_{10} alkynyl, C_6 or C_{10} aryl, C_3 - C_7 cycloalkyl or a 4-9-membered saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic residue containing up to 2 heteroatoms selected
 25 from the group oxygen, nitrogen or sulfur,

wherein R^8 can optionally be substituted by 1 to 3 radicals R^{8-1} ,

wherein R^{8-1} represents C_1 - C_4 alkyl, trifluormethyl, trifluoromethoxy, $-OR^{8-2}$, $-SR^{8-2}$, $NR^{8-3}R^{8-4}$, $-C(O)R^{8-2}$, $S(O)R^{8-2}$, $-SO_2R^{8-2}$, $-OC(O)R^{8-2}$,
 30 $-C(O)NR^{8-3}R^{8-4}$, $-NR^{8-2}C(O)R^{8-3}$, $-SO_2NR^{8-3}R^{8-4}$, $NR^{8-2}SO_2R^{8-3}$,

- 10 -

-NR⁸⁻²C(O)NR⁸⁻³R⁸⁻⁴, -NR⁸⁻²C(O)OR⁸⁻³, -OC(O)NR⁸⁻³R⁸⁻⁴, -CO₂R⁸⁻⁵,
halogen, cyano, nitro or oxo,

wherein R⁸⁻² represents hydrogen, C₁-C₄ alkyl, C₃-C₆ cycloalkyl, C₆ or C₁₀
aryl,

wherein R⁸⁻³ and R⁸⁻⁴ are independently selected from the group hydrogen,
C₁-C₄ alkyl, C₃-C₆ cycloalkyl, C₆ or C₁₀ aryl or benzyl,

and wherein R⁸⁻⁵ represents C₁-C₄ alkyl, C₃-C₆ cycloalkyl, C₆ or C₁₀ aryl

or

R⁷ and R⁸ together form a 4-7-membered saturated or unsaturated ring
containing up to 2 heteroatoms selected from the group oxygen,
nitrogen or sulfur, which can optionally be substituted by 1 to 2
substituents selected from the group C₁-C₄ alkyl, phenyl, benzyl,
C₃-C₇ cycloalkyl, C₁-C₄ alkyloxy, halogen, nitro, cyano, oxo and
which can be fused with a 3-7 membered homocyclic or heterocyclic,
saturated, unsaturated or aromatic ring,

X represents bond or (-CR^{X-1}R^{X-2}-)_n,

wherein R^{X-1} and R^{X-2} can be independently selected from the group hydro-
gen, C₁-C₄ alkyl, C₂-C₄ alkenyl, C₂-C₄ alkynyl,

wherein R^{X-1} and R^{X-2} can optionally independently be substituted by 1 to 2
substituents selected from the group C₁-C₄ alkyl, phenyl, benzyl, C₃-C₇
cycloalkyl, C₁-C₄ alkyloxy, halogen, nitro, cyano, oxo,

and wherein n is an integer 0 or 1,

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

5 In the context of the present invention alkyl stands for a straight-chain or branched alkyl residue, such as methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, iso-propyl, n-pentyl. If not stated otherwise, preferred is C₁-C₁₀ alkyl, very preferred is C₁-C₆ alkyl.

10 Alkenyl and alkynyl stand for straight-chain or branched residues containing one or more double or triple bonds, e.g. vinyl, allyl, isopropinyl, ethinyl. If not stated otherwise, preferred is C₁-C₁₀ alkenyl or alkynyl, very preferred is C₁-C₆ alkenyl or alkynyl.

15 Cycloalkyl stands for a cyclic alkyl group such as cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl or cycloheptyl. Preferred is monocyclic C₃-C₇ cycloalkyl.

Halogen in the context of the present invention stands for fluorine, chlorine, bromine or iodine. If not specified otherwise, chlorine or fluorine are preferred.

20 A 4- to 9-membered saturated, unsaturated or aromatic cyclic residue stands for a monocyclic system containing 4 to 9 ring atoms and containing 0, 1 or more double bonds, which can be attached via a carbon atom or eventually via a heteroatom within the ring, for example phenyl, thiazolyl, pyridyl, cyclopentyl.

25 Aryl stands for a monocyclic Hueckel-aromatic cyclic system containing 6 or 10 ring carbon atoms.

30 Heteroaryl stands for a monocyclic heteroaromatic system containing 4 to 9 ring atoms, which can be attached via a carbon atom or eventually via a nitrogen atom within the ring, for example, furan-2-yl, furan-3-yl, pyrrol-1-yl, pyrrol-2-yl, pyrrol-3-yl, thienyl, thiazolyl, oxazolyl, imidazolyl, triazolyl, tetrazolyl, pyridyl, pyrimidyl or pyridazinyl.

A saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic residue stands for a heterocyclic system containing 4 to 9 ring atoms, which can contain one or more double bonds and which can be attached via a ring carbon atom or eventually via a nitrogen atom, e.g. tetrahydrofuran-2-yl, pyrrolidine-1-yl, piperidine-1-yl, piperidine-2-yl, piperidine-3-yl, piperidine-4-yl, piperazine-1-yl, piperazine-2-yl morpholine-1-yl, 1,4-diazepine-1-yl or 1,4-dihydropyridine-1-yl.

If not specified otherwise, in the context of the present invention heteroatom stands preferably for O, S, N or P.

Compounds according to the invention, wherein one of the substituents R^3 , R^4 , R^7 and R^8 represents phenyl, which can optionally be substituted by up to three substituents independently selected from the group C_1 - C_4 -alkyl and halogen, and the remaining substituents represent hydrogen are such that have one single phenyl group bound to any one of the chain carbon atoms to which these substituents are attached.

In a preferred embodiment, the present invention relates to compounds of general formula (I), wherein R^1 represents a phenyl ring.

In another preferred embodiment, the present invention relates to compounds of general formula (I), wherein R^{1-1} represents a bond and Z represents $COOR^{Z-1}$, wherein R^{Z-1} has the meaning indicated above.

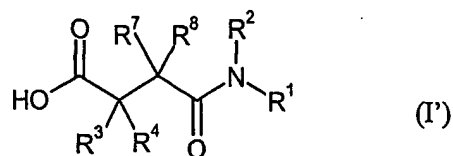
In yet another preferred embodiment, the present invention relates to compounds of general formula (I), wherein R^6 represents phenyl, which is substituted by $-NHC(O)NHR^{6-4}$, wherein R^{6-4} is substituted with methyl or trifluoromethoxy.

In yet another preferred embodiment, the present invention relates to compounds of general formula (I), wherein X represents a methylene group.

In yet another preferred embodiment, the present invention relates to compounds of general formula (I), wherein one of the substituents R^3 , R^4 , R^7 and R^8 represents phenyl, which can optionally be substituted by up to three substituents independently selected from the group C_1 - C_4 -alkyl and halogen, and the remaining substituents
5 represent hydrogen.

In yet another preferred embodiment, the present invention relates to compounds of general formula (I), wherein R^1 is a 1,4-substituted phenyl ring.

10 A preferred process for preparation of compounds of general formula (I) has also been found, which comprises reaction of carboxylic acids of general formula (I')



15 or activated derivatives thereof, wherein

R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 , R^7 and R^8 have the above-mentioned meaning,

with compounds of the general formula (I'')

20



wherein

X , R^5 and R^6 have the above-mentioned meaning,

25

in inert solvents, which will be described in more detail in the descriptive part of the specification.

Surprisingly, the compounds of the present invention show good integrin antagonistic activity. They are therefore suitable for the treatment of diseases, especially as $\alpha_4\beta_1$ and/or $\alpha_4\beta_7$ and/or $\alpha_9\beta_1$ integrin antagonists and in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or the prevention of a condition mediated by integrins and in particular for the production of pharmaceutical compositions for the inhibition or the prevention of cell adhesion and cell-adhesion mediated disorders. Examples are the treatment and the prophylaxis of atherosclerosis, asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), allergies, diabetes, inflammatory bowel disease, multiple sclerosis, myocardial ischemia, rheumatoid arthritis, transplant rejection and other inflammatory, autoimmune and immune disorders.

The integrin antagonists of the invention are useful not only for treatment of the physiological conditions discussed above, but are also useful in such activities as purification of integrins and testing for activity.

For the treatment of the above-mentioned diseases, the compounds according to the invention can exhibit non-systemic or systemic activity, wherein the latter is preferred. To obtain systemic activity the active compounds can be administered, among other things, orally or parenterally, wherein oral administration is preferred.

For parenteral administration, forms of administration to the mucous membranes (i.e. buccal, lingual, sublingual, rectal, nasal, pulmonary, conjunctival or intravaginal) or into the interior of the body are particularly suitable. Administration can be carried out by avoiding absorption (i.e. intracardiac, intra-arterial, intravenous, intraspinal or intralumbar administration) or by including absorption (i.e. intracutaneous, subcutaneous, percutaneous, intramuscular or intraperitoneal administration).

For the above purpose the active compounds can be administered per se or in administration forms.

Suitable administration forms for oral administration are, inter alia, normal and enteric-coated tablets, capsules, coated tablets, pills, granules, pellets, powders, solid and liquid aerosols, syrups, emulsions, suspensions and solutions. Suitable administration forms for parenteral administration are injection and infusion solutions.

5

The active compound can be present in the administration forms in concentrations of from 0.001 - 100 % by weight; preferably the concentration of the active compound should be 0.5 - 90% by weight, i.e. quantities which are sufficient to allow the specified range of dosage.

10

The active compounds can be converted in the known manner into the above-mentioned administration forms using inert non-toxic pharmaceutically suitable auxiliaries, such as for example excipients, solvents, vehicles, emulsifiers and/or dispersants.

15

The following auxiliaries can be mentioned as examples: water, solid excipients such as ground natural or synthetic minerals (e.g. talcum or silicates), sugar (e.g. lactose), non-toxic organic solvents such as paraffins, vegetable oils (e.g. sesame oil), alcohols (e.g. ethanol, glycerol), glycols (e.g. polyethylene glycol), emulsifying agents, dispersants (e.g. polyvinylpyrrolidone) and lubricants (e.g. magnesium sulphate).

20

In the case of oral administration tablets can of course also contain additives such as sodium citrate as well as additives such as starch, gelatin and the like. Flavour enhancers or colorants can also be added to aqueous preparations for oral administration.

25

For the obtainment of effective results in the case of parenteral administration it has generally proven advantageous to administer quantities of about 0.001 to 100 mg/kg, preferably about 0.01 to 1 mg/kg of body weight. In the case of oral administration the quantity is about 0.01 to 100 mg/kg, preferably about 0.1 to 10 mg/kg of body weight.

30

5 It may nevertheless be necessary to use quantities other than those mentioned above, depending on the body weight concerned, the method of administration, the individual response to the active compound, the type of preparation and the time or interval of administration.

10 Pharmaceutically acceptable salts of the compounds of the present invention that contain an acidic moiety include addition salts formed with organic or inorganic bases. The salt forming ion derived from such bases can be metal ions, e.g., aluminum, alkali metal ions, such as sodium or potassium, alkaline earth metal ions such as calcium or magnesium, or an amine salt ion, of which a number are known for this purpose. Examples include ammonium salts, arylalkylamines such as dibenzylamine and *N,N*-dibenzylethylenediamine, lower alkylamines such as methylamine, *t*-butylamine, procaine, lower alkylpiperidines such as *N*-ethylpiperidine, cycloalkyl-
15 amines such as cyclohexylamine or dicyclohexylamine, 1-adamantylamine, benzathine, or salts derived from amino acids like arginine, lysine or the like. The physiologically acceptable salts such as the sodium or potassium salts and the amino acid salts can be used medicinally as described below and are preferred.

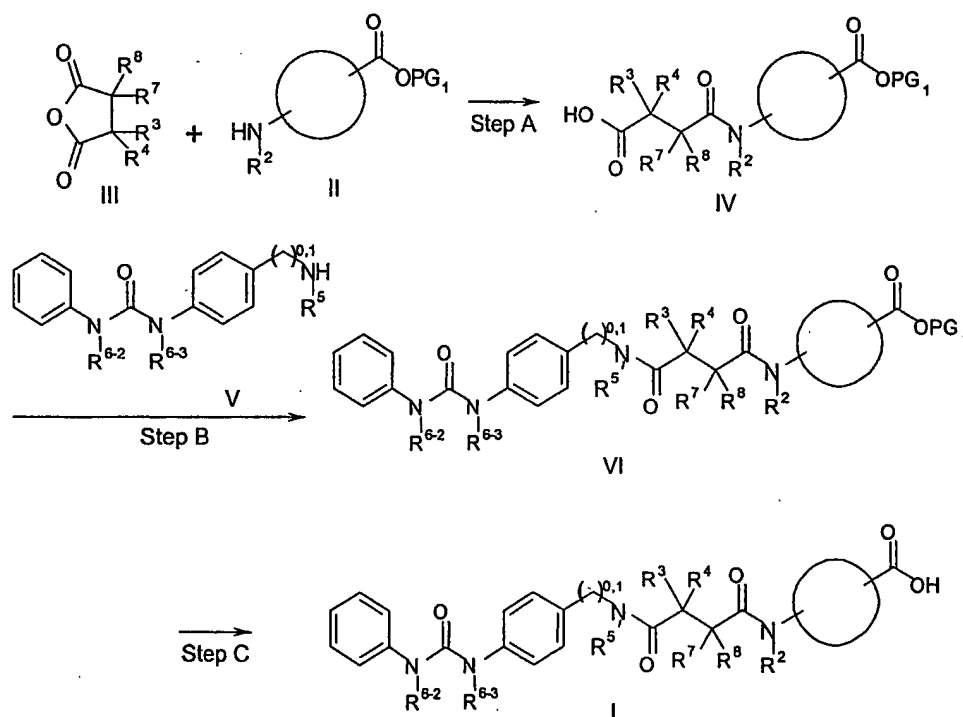
20 Pharmaceutically acceptable salts of the compounds of the present invention that contain a basic moiety include addition salts formed with organic or inorganic acids. The salt forming ion derived from such acids can be halide ions or ions of natural or unnatural carboxylic or sulfonic acids, of which a number are known for this purpose. Examples include chlorides, acetates, trifluoroacetates, tartrates, or salts
25 derived from amino acids like glycine or the like. The physiologically acceptable salts such as the chloride salts, the trifluoroacetic acid salts and the amino acid salts can be used medicinally as described below and are preferred.

30 These and other salts which are not necessarily physiologically acceptable are useful in isolating or purifying a product acceptable for the purposes described below.

The compounds according to the invention can exist in different stereoisomeric forms, which relate to each other in an enantiomeric way (image and mirror image) or in a diastereomeric way (image different from mirror image). The invention relates to the enantiomers and the diastereomers as well as their mixtures. They can be separated according to customary methods.

General compound synthesis

The synthesis of compounds according to the general formula (I) can be illustrated by the following scheme 1:



Scheme 1

By coupling of the carboxylic acid derivatives (III) with the amines (II), the amides (IV) can be obtained. Coupling of the activates carboxylic acids (IV) with the amines

(V) yields the amides (VI). The removal of the protecting group PG affords carboxylic acids of type (I).

5 In the above scheme the depicted ring in formulas (I), (II), (IV), and (VI) represents a cyclic moiety formed by R¹. Activated carboxylic acids derivatives of this type are known to the person skilled in the art and are described in detail in standard textbooks such as, for example in (i) Houben-Weyl, Methoden der organischen Chemie [Methods of Organic Chemistry], Georg Thieme Verlag, Stuttgart or (ii) Comprehensive Organic Synthesis, Ed. B. M. Trost, Pergamon Press, Oxford, 1991.

10 The carboxylic acid is preferably activated as, such as, for example, AG = 1-hydroxy-1H-benzotriazol and a coupling agents such as, for example, dicyclohexylcarbodiimid (DCC), 1-ethyl-3-(3'-dimethylaminopropyl)carbodiimide×HCl (EDCI), 2-(7-aza-3-oxido-1H-1,2,3-benzotriazol-1-yl)-1,1,3,3-tetramethyluronium hexafluorophosphate. Other activated carboxylic acid derivatives such as, for example

15 symmetric anhydrides, mixed anhydrides, N-carboxy anhydrides, halides, or further activated esters e.g. succinyl or pentafluorophenyl esters may also be employed.

In the above scheme PG stand for a suitable protecting group of the carboxyl group or COOPG stand for the carboxylic group attached to a polymeric resin suitable for

20 solid phase synthesis. Protecting groups of this type are known to the person skilled in the art and are described in detail in T. W. Greene, P. G. Wuts, *Protective Groups in Organic Synthesis*, 3rd ed., John Wiley, New York, 1999. The carboxyl group is preferably esterified, PG being C₁₋₆-alkyl such as, for example, methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, butyl, isobutyl, t-butyl, pentyl, isopentyl, neopentyl, hexyl, a C₃₋₇-cycloalkyl such as, for example, cyclopropyl, cyclopropylmethyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl, an aryl such as, for example, phenyl, benzyl, tolyl or a substituted

25 derivative thereof.

Step A

Formation of the amides (IV) can take place by reacting a carboxylic acid anhydride (II) with the desired amine (III) or an acceptable salt thereof.

5

For example, amides of type (IV) can be prepared as follows:

Anhydride procedure

- 10 A solution of carboxylic acid anhydride in an inert solvent is stirred at r.t.. After addition of the amine and a non-nucleophilic base such as ethyldiisopropylamine or potassium carbonate stirring is continued at r.t. or elevated temperature. After evaporation, the residue was redissolved in ethyl acetate, washed with aqueous acid and base, dried and evaporated. If necessary the product was purified by trituration or
15 by flash-chromatography or used without further purification.

Compounds of general formula (II) are commercially available, known or can be prepared by customary methods starting from commercially available precursors.

- 20 Compounds of general formula (III) are commercially available, known or can be prepared by customary methods starting from known carboxylic acid derivatives.

Step B

- 25 Formation of the amides (VI) can take place by reacting the respective carboxylic acids (IV) - activated by a coupling agent such as DCC and HOBt; EDCI and HOBt or HATU - with the desired amines (V) or an acceptable salt thereof. Activated derivatives of the acids (IV) such as anhydrides, halides, and esters e.g. succinyl or pentafluorophenyl esters may also be employed.

30

For example, amides (VI) can be prepared as follows:

5 A solution of carboxylic acid, 1-hydroxy-1H-benzotriazol (HOBt) and 1-ethyl-3-(3'-dimethylaminopropyl)carbodiimide×HCl (EDCI) in an inert solvent is stirred at r.t.. After addition of the amine and a non-nucleophilic base such as ethyldiisopropylamine or potassium carbonate stirring is continued at r.t. or elevated temperature. After evaporation, the residue was redissolved in ethyl acetate, washed with aqueous acid and base, dried and evaporated. If necessary the product was purified by trituration or by flash-chromatography or used without further purification.

10 Compounds of general formula (V) are commercially available, known or can be prepared by customary methods starting from known carboxylic acid derivatives. Bisarylureas can be prepared by coupling of an amino phenyl acetic acid derivative and a phenylisocyanate.

15 **Step C**

20 The removal of the protecting group PG can be performed either by an acid such as trifluoroacetic acid or an base such as potassium hydroxide or lithium hydroxide, depending on the nature of PG. Reactions are carried out in aqueous, inert organic solvents such as alcohols e.g. methanol or ethanol, ethers e.g. tetrahydrofurane or dioxane or polar aprotic solvents e.g. dimethylformamide. If necessary, mixtures of the above solvents may be used.

Examples**Abbreviations**

5	AcOH	acetic acid
	Boc	tert-butyloxycarbonyl
	DCC	dicyclohexylcarbodiimid
	DCM	dichloromethane
	DIPEA	diisopropylethylamine
10	EDCI	1-ethyl-3-(3'-dimethylaminopropyl)carbodiimide×HCl
	eq.	equivalents
	EtOAc	ethyl acetate
	FC	flash chromatography
	GC	gas chromatography
15	HATU	2-(7-aza-3-oxido-1H-1,2,3-benzotriazol-1-yl)-1,1,3,3-tetramethyluro- nium hexafluorophosphate
	HOBt	N-hydroxybenzotriazole monohydrate
	HPLC	high performance liquid chromatography
	ICAM-1	intracellular adhesion molecule 1
20	IL-1	interleukin 1
	LPS	lipopolysaccharide
	MAdCAM-1	mucosal addressin cell adhesion molecule 1
	MeOH	methanol
	MeCN	acetonitril
25	min.	minutes
	M.p.	melting point
	NF-κB	nuclear factor κB
	NMR	nuclear magnetic resonance
	n.d.	not determined
30	PE	light petroleum (b.p. 40-60 °C)
	r.t.	room temperature

R _f	TLC: R _f value = distance spot traveled / distance solvent front traveled
TFA	trifluoroacetic acid
THF	tetrahydrofurane
TLC	thin layer chromatography
5 TNF- α	tumor necrosis factor α
t _R	retention time determined by HPLC
VCAM-1	vascular cell adhesion molecule 1
VLA-4	very late antigen 4 ($\alpha_4\beta_1$ integrin)

10

General remarks

In the examples below, all quantitative data, if not stated otherwise, relate to percentages by weight.

15

Flash chromatography was carried out on silica gel 60, 40–63 μ m (E. Merck, Darmstadt, Germany).

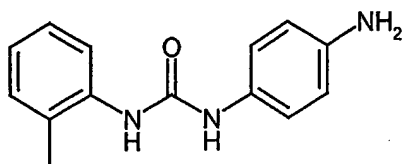
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Thin layer chromatography was carried out, employing silica gel 60 F₂₅₄ coated aluminum sheets (E. Merck, Darmstadt, Germany) with the mobile phase indicated.

Melting points were determined in open capillaries and are not corrected.

25

The mass determinations were carried out using the electron spray ionization (ESI) method employing loop injection or split injection via a HPLC system.

Precursor synthesis**Example I:** N-(4-Aminophenyl)-N'-(2-methylphenyl)urea

5

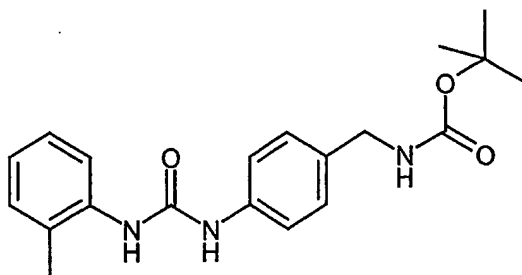
2-Methylphenylisocyanate (24.6 g, 184.9 mmol) was added dropwise at 0°C to a solution of 1,4-diamino benzene (20.00 g, 184.9 mmol) in 1000 mL EtOAc. After stirring for 2 h at r.t. the product was collected by filtration (42.7 g, 177.0 mmol).

10

M.p. >300°C;

TLC (PE/EtOAc 1/4) R_f 0.32; $^1\text{H-NMR}$ (400 MHz, $\text{D}_6\text{-DMSO}$) δ 2.10 (s, 3H); 4.76 (s, 2H); 6.59 (mc, 2H); 6.89 (mc, 1H); 7.07-7.15 (m, 4H); 7.73 (s, 1H); 7.85 (mc, 2H); 8.50 (s, 1H).

15

Example II: *tert*-Butyl 4-({[(2-methylphenyl)amino]carbonyl}amino)benzylcarbamate

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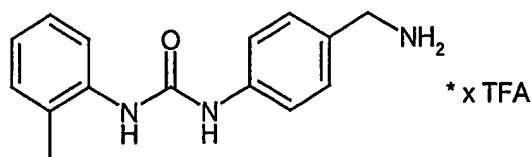
2-Methylphenylisocyanate (7.57 g, 59.83 mmol) was added dropwise at 0°C to a solution of (4-amino-benzyl)-carbamic acid *tert*-butyl ester (13.30 g, 59.83 mmol, prepared analogous to: Moloney, Gerard P.; Martin, Graeme R.; Mathews, Neil; Milne, Aynsley; Hobbs, Heather; et al. *J. Med. Chem.* **1999**, *42*, 2504 - 2526) in 120 mL DCM. The reaction was heated under reflux for 16 h, cooled to r.t. and the

- 24 -

precipitated product was collected by filtration and dried in vacuum (19.20 g, 54.00 mmol). M.p. 200-202 °C; TLC (PE/EtOAc 1/1) R_f 0.65; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, D_6 -DMSO) δ 1.39 (s, 9H); 2.24 (s, 3H); 4.06 (d, $J=6$ Hz, 2H); 6.93 (mc, 1H); 7.12-7.17 (m, 4); 7.32 (mc, 1H); 7.40 (mc, 2H); 7.85 (mc, 1H); 7.90 (s, 1H); 8.98 (s, 1H).

5

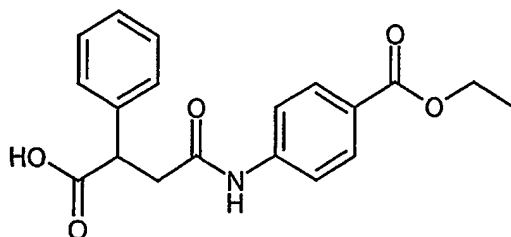
Example III: N-[4-(Aminomethyl)phenyl]-N'-(2-methylphenyl)urea



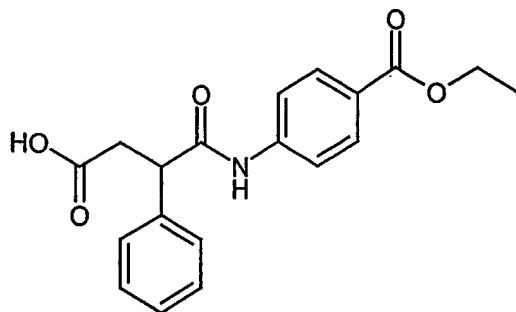
- 10 To a solution of *tert*-butyl 4-({[(2-methylphenyl)amino]carbonyl} amino)benzylcarbamate (2.00 g, 5.63 mmol) in CH_2Cl_2 (120 mL) TFA (36 mL) was added at 0°C and stirred for 2 h at r.t.. The reaction mixture was evaporated and the product was collected (2.72 g, TFA salt). M.p. 142-143°C; TLC (PE/EtOAc 3/2) R_f 0.14; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, D_6 -DMSO) δ 2.24 (s, 3H); 3.97 (q, $J=5$ Hz, 2H); 6.96 (mc, 1H);
- 15 7.13-7.19 (m, 2); 7.36 (mc, 2H); 7.51 (mc, 2H); 7.81 (mc, 2H); 8.06 (s, 1H); 8.08 (s, 3H); 9.23 (s, 1H).

Compound synthesis, Example 1**Step A**

5 **Example IV:** 4-{{[4-(ethoxycarbonyl)phenyl]amino}-4-oxo-2-phenylbutanoic acid



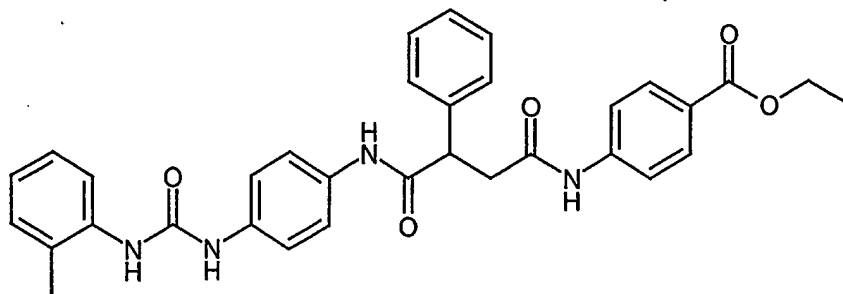
10 Ethyl 4-aminobenzoate (910 mg, 5.50 mmol) and phenyl succinic anhydride
(1070 mg, 6.00 mmol) were dissolved in 40mL abs. CH₃CN and stirred overnight at
r.t. The solid precipitate was isolated and digested with 2-propanol, dried in vacuum,
dissolved in DCM and washed with citric acid. 4-{{[4-(methoxycarbonyl)-
phenyl]amino}-4-oxo-3-phenylbutanoic acid was isolated as a crystalline solid
(980 mg, 2.88 mmol). M.p. 212°C; TLC (cyclohexane/EtOAc 7/3) R_f 0.17; ¹H NMR
15 (400 MHz, D₆-DMSO) δ 1.39 (t, J=7.2 Hz, 3H); 2.75 (dd, J=3.7 Hz, J=17.2 Hz, 1H);
3.42 (dd, J=3.7 Hz, J=17.2 Hz, 1H); 4.09 (dd, J=3.7 Hz, J=17.2 Hz, 1H); 4.35 (q,
J=7.2 Hz, 2H); 7.33-7.41 (m, 5H), 7.75 (mc, 2H), 7.94 (mc, 2H). The regiochemistry
was determined using NOESY NMR spectroscopy.

Example V: 4-[[4-(ethoxycarbonyl)phenyl]amino]-4-oxo-3-phenylbutanoic acid

- 5 The solvent was evaporated and the residue was purified by flash chromatography yielding 4-[[4-(methoxycarbonyl)phenyl]amino]-4-oxo-3-phenylbutanoic acid (690 mg, 2.87 mmol) M.p. 190°C; TLC (DCM/MeOH 9/1) R_f 0.21; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, $\text{D}_6\text{-DMSO}$) δ 1.30 (t, $J=7.1$ Hz, 3H); 2.23 (s, 3H); 2.80 (mc, 1H); 3.25 (mc, 1H); 4.25-4.30 (m, 3H); 3.74 (s, 3H); 6.00 (bs, 1H); 6.65 (d, $J=6.6$ Hz, 2H); 6.90-6.96 (m, 2H); 7.10-7.19 (m, 4H); 7.34-7.38 (m, 2H); 7.43-7.51 (m, 2H); 7.69-7.71 (m, 1H); 7.79-7.90 (m, 2H); 8.70 (s, 1H); 8.97 (s, 1H).
- 10

Step B

- 15 **Example V: Ethyl 4-[[4-[[4-[[4-((2-methylphenyl)amino)carbonyl]amino)phenyl]amino]-4-oxo-3-phenylbutanoyl]amino]benzoate**



4-[[4-(Ethoxycarbonyl)phenyl]amino]-4-oxo-2-phenylbutanoic acid (400 mg, 1.17 mmol) was dissolved in MeCN (10 mL), 1-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)-3-ethylcarbodiimidhydrochlorid (247 mg, 1.29 mmol), 1-hydroxy-1H-benzotriazol (158 mg, 1.17 mmol) followed by N-(4-aminophenyl)-N'-(2-methylphenyl)urea (282 mg, 1.17 mmol) was added at r.t and the reaction mixture was stirred for 24 h. Ethyl 4-[[4-[[4-[[4-((2-methylphenyl)amino)carbonyl]amino)phenyl]amino]-4-oxo-3-phenylbutanoyl]amino]benzoate (194 mg, 0.34 mmol) was isolated by filtration as a colorless solid. M.p. >220°C; TLC (DCM/MeOH 9/1) R_f 0.21; ^1H NMR (400 MHz, $\text{D}_6\text{-DMSO}$) δ 1.30 (t, $J=7.1$ Hz, 3H); 2.23 (s, 3H); 2.80 (mc, 1H); 3.25 (mc, 1H); 4.25-4.30 (m, 3H); 3.74 (s, 3H); 6.00 (bs, 1H); 6.65 (d, $J=6.6$ Hz, 2H); 6.90-6.96 (m, 2H); 7.10-7.19 (m, 4H); 7.34-7.38 (m, 2H); 7.43-7.51 (m, 2H); 7.69-7.71 (m, 1H); 7.79-7.90 (m, 2H); 8.70 (s, 1H); 8.97 (s, 1H).

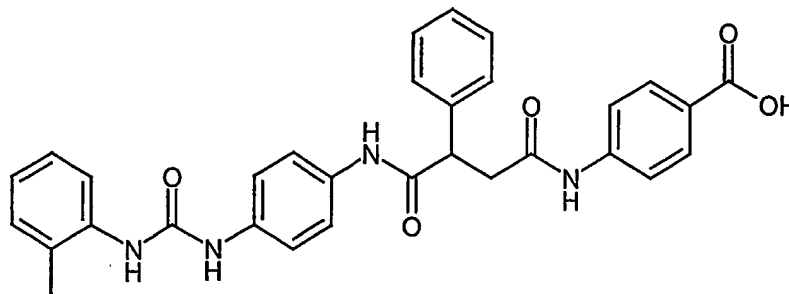
Table 2: The following examples were prepared according to the general procedure

Ex.- No	Structure	Name	M.p. (°C)
VI		Ethyl 4-[[4-[[4-[[4-((2-methylphenyl)amino)carbonyl]amino)phenyl]amino]-4-oxo-2-phenylbutanoyl]amino]benzoate	152
VII		Ethyl 4-[[4-[[4-[[4-((2-methylphenyl)amino)carbonyl]amino)benzyl]amino]-4-oxo-3-phenylbutanoyl]amino]benzoate	132
VIII		Ethyl 4-[[4-[[4-[[4-((2-methylphenyl)amino)carbonyl]amino)benzyl]amino]-4-oxo-2-phenylbutanoyl]amino]benzoate	168

Step C

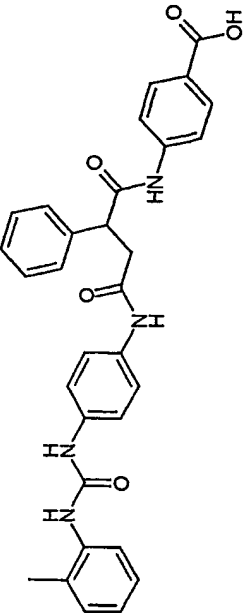
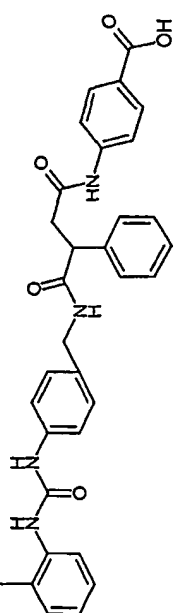
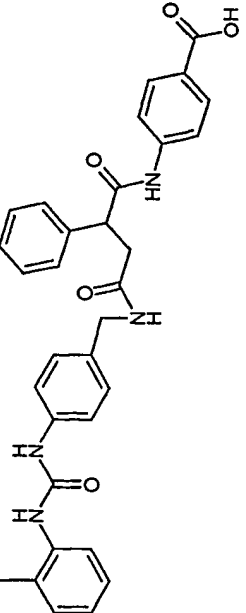
Example 1: 4-[(4-{[4-({[(2-Methylphenyl)amino]carbonyl}amino)phenyl]-amino}-4-oxo-3-phenylbutanoyl)amino]benzoic acid

5



10 Ethyl 4-[(4-{[4-({[(2-methylphenyl)amino]carbonyl}amino)phenyl]amino}-4-oxo-3-phenylbutanoyl)amino]benzoate (160 mg, 0.28 mmol) was dissolved in water:THF (10 mL; 1:1;v:v) and LiOH (27 mg, 1.13 mmol) was added at 0°C and the reaction mixture was stirred at r.t. for 24h. The reaction mixture was acidified, the product was isolated by filtration and purified by flash chromatography (CH₂Cl₂/MeOH/AcOH; 10/1/0.5) (11 mg, 0.02 mmol). M.p. 169°C. TLC (DCM/MeOH 9/1) R_f 0.27, ESI-MS: 537[M+H]⁺.

Table 3: The following examples were prepared according to the general procedure

No	Structure	Name	M.p. (°C)
2		4-[(4-({[4-({[2-Methylphenyl]amino]carbonyl}-amino)phenyl]amino}-4-oxo-2-phenylbutanoyl)amino]benzoic acid	n. d.
3		4-{{[1-(3,4-Dimethoxyphenyl)-3-{[4-({[2-methylphenyl]amino]carbonyl}amino)benzyl]amino}-3-oxopropyl]amino]carbonyl}benzoic acid	155
4		4-[(4-({[4-({[2-Methylphenyl]amino]carbonyl}-amino)benzyl]amino}-4-oxo-2-phenylbutanoyl)amino]benzoic acid	126

In vitro* assay: adhesion of Ramos cells to immobilized VCAM-1 (domains 1-3)*Preparation of VCAM-1 (extracellular domains 1-3)**

- 5 Complementary DNA (cDNA) encoding 7-domain form of VCAM-1 (GenBank accession #M60335) was obtained using Rapid-Screen™ cDNA library panels (OriGene Technologies, Inc) at Takara Gene Analysis Center (Shiga, Japan). The primers used were 5'-CCA AGG CAG AGT ACG CAA AC-3' (sense) and 5'-TGG CAG GTA TTA TTA AGG AG-3' (antisense). PCR amplification of the 3-domain
- 10 VCAM-1 cDNA was performed using *Pfu* DNA polymerase (Stratagene) with the following sets of primers: (U-VCAMd1-3) 5'-CCA TAT GGT ACC TGA TCA ATT TAA AAT CGA GAC CAC CCC AGA A-3'; (L-VCAMd1-3) 5'-CCA TAT AGC AAT CCT AGG TCC AGG GGA GAT CTC AAC AGT AAA-3'. PCR cycle was 94°C for 45 sec, 55°C for 45 sec, 72°C for 2 min, repeating 15 cycles. After the
- 15 purification of the PCR product, the fragment was digested with KpnI-AvrII. The digested fragment was ligated into pBluescript IISK(-) (Stratagene), which was linearized by digesting with KpnI-XhoI. The ligation was followed by transformation to a Dam/Dcm methylase-free *E. coli* strain SCS110 (Stratagene) to create the donor plasmid pHH7. To direct VCAM-1 molecule into the insect cell secretory pathway,
- 20 the VCAM-1 coding sequence was fused to signal peptide sequence of honeybee melittin. The resulting melittin-VCAM fusion was placed in correct orientation to the baculovirus polyhedrin promoter. Baculovirus transfer vector containing first 3-domain form VCAM-1 (pH10) was constructed by ligation of 0.9 kb fragment from AvrII/Klenow/BclI digests of pH7 into SalI/Klenow/BamHI digests of pMelBacB
- 25 (Invitrogen). Recombinant baculovirus was generated by using Bac-N-Blue™ Transfection kit (Invitrogen) according to the manufacturer's instruction. The recombinant virus was amplified by infection to High-Five™ insect cells for 5 – 6 days, and virus titer was determined by plaque assay.
- 30 High-Five™ insect cells were pelleted in a 225 ml conical tube by centrifugation at 1000 rpm for 5 min. After discarding the supernatant, the pellet was resuspended in

1.5 x 10⁹ pfu (MOI = 5) of high-titer virus solution, followed by incubation for 1.5 hours at room temperature. The cells were pelleted again and washed once in fresh Express Five™ serum free medium. The cells were pelleted again and finally, resuspended in 200 ml of fresh Express Five™ medium, transferred to a 1,000 ml shaker flask, and incubated in a shaker at 27°C, 130 rpm, for 48 hours before the culture supernatant was collected. The purification of 3-domain form of VCAM-1 from the culture supernatant was performed by one-step anion exchange chromatography. Protein concentration was determined by using Coomassie protein assay reagent (Pierce) according to the manufacture's instruction.

10

Preparation of VCAM-1 coated microtiter plates

Recombinant human VCAM-1 (extracellular domains 1-3) was dissolved at 1.0 µg/ml in PBS. Each well of the microtiter plates (Nalge Nunc International, Fluoronunc Cert, 437958) was coated with 100 µl of substrate or for background control with buffer alone for 15 hours at 4°C. After discarding the substrate solution, the wells were blocked using 150 µl per well of block solution (Kirkegaard Perry Laboratories, 50-61-01) for 90 minutes. The plate was washed with wash buffer containing 24 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.4), 137 mM NaCl, 27 mM KCl and 2 mM MnCl₂ just before addition of the assay.

20

***In Vitro* Assay using Ramos cells**

Preparation of fluorescence labeled Ramos cells

25

Ramos cells (American Type Culture Collection, Clone CRL-1596) were cultured in RPMI 1640 medium (Nikken Bio Medical Laboratory, CM1101) supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum (Hyclone, A-1119-L), 100 U/ml penicillin (Gibco BRL, 15140-122) and 100 µg/ml streptomycin (Gibco BRL, 15140-122) in a humidified incubator at 37°C with 5% CO₂.

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Ramos cells were incubated with phosphate balanced solution (PBS, Nissui, 05913) containing 25 μ M of 5(-and -6)-carboxyfluorescein diacetate, succinimidyle ester (CFSE, Dojindo Laboratories, 345-06441) for 20 min at room temperature while gently swirling every 5 min. After centrifugation at 1000 rpm for 5 min, the cell pellet was resuspended with adhesion assay buffer at a cell density of 4×10^6 cells/ml. The adhesion assay buffer was composed of 24 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.4), 137 mM NaCl, 27 mM KCl, 4 mM glucose, 0.1 % bovine serum albumin (BSA, Sigma, A9647) and 2 mM $MnCl_2$.

10 Assay procedure (Ramos cells)

The assay solution containing each test compounds or 5 μ g/ml anti-CD49d monoclonal antibody (Immunotech, 0764) was transferred to the VCAM-1 coated plates. The final concentration of each test compounds was 5 μ M, 10 μ M or various concentrations ranging from 0.0001 μ M to 10 μ M using a standard 5-point serial dilution. The assay solution containing the labeled Ramos cells was transferred to the VCAM-1 coated plates at a cell density of 2×10^5 cells per well and incubated for 1 hour at 37°C. The non-adherent cells were removed by washing the plates 3 times with wash buffer. The adherent cells were broken by addition of 1 % Triton X-100 (Nacalai Tesque, 355-01). Released CFSC was quantified fluorescence measurement in a fluorometer (Wallac, ARVO 1420 multilabel counter).

The adhesion of Ramos cells to VCAM-1 was analyzed by percent binding calculated by the formula:

25

$100 \times (FTS - FBG) / (FTB - FBG) = \% \text{ binding}$, where FTB is the total fluorescent intensity from VCAM-1 coated wells without test compound; FBG is the fluorescent intensity from wells with anti-CD49d monoclonal antibody and FTS is the fluorescent intensity from wells containing the test compound of this invention.

30

***In vitro* activity**

In the Ramos VCAM-1 assay the observed IC₅₀ value ranges are indicated in Table 4.

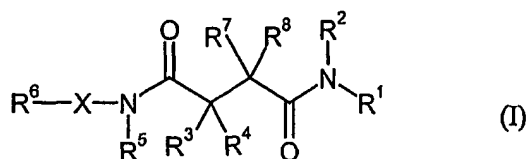
5 C > 10 µM ≥ B > 1 µM ≥ A

Table 4

No	IC ₅₀
1	A
2	C
3	C
4	A

Claims

1. Compounds of the general formula (I),



wherein

R^1 represents a 4- to 9-membered saturated, unsaturated or aromatic cyclic residue,

which can contain 0 to 3 heteroatoms selected independently from the group N, S and O,

and wherein R^1 is substituted by $-\text{R}^{1-1}-\text{Z}$,

wherein

R^{1-1} represents a bond, $-\text{O}-$, $-\text{S}-$, NR^{1-2} , $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{10}$ alkyl, $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_{10}$ alkenyl, $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_{10}$ alkynyl, C_6 or C_{10} aryl, $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_7$ cycloalkyl or a 4-9-membered saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic residue containing up to 3 heteroatoms selected from the group oxygen, nitrogen or sulfur,

wherein R^{1-1} can optionally be substituted by 1 to 2 substituents selected from the group R^{1-3} ,

wherein R^{1-2} can optionally be hydrogen, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{10}$ alkyl, $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_{10}$ alkenyl or $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_{10}$ alkynyl, and

wherein R^{1-3} represents hydrogen, C_1 - C_{10} alkyl, C_2 - C_{10} alkenyl, C_2 - C_{10} alkynyl, C_6 or C_{10} aryl, C_3 - C_7 cycloalkyl or a 4-9-membered saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic residue containing up to 3 heteroatoms selected from the group oxygen, nitrogen or sulfur,

5

Z represents $-C(O)OR^{Z-1}$, $-C(O)NR^{Z-2}R^{Z-3}$, $-SO_2NR^{Z-2}R^{Z-3}$, $-SO(OR^{Z-1})$, $-SO_2(OR^{Z-1})$, $-P(O)R^{Z-1}(OR^{Z-3})$ or $-PO(OR^{Z-1})(OR^{Z-3})$,

10

wherein R^{Z-2} is hydrogen, C_1 - C_4 alkyl, C_2 - C_6 alkenyl, C_2 - C_6 alkynyl, C_3 - C_6 cycloalkyl, C_6 or C_{10} aryl, $-C(O)R^{Z-4}$ or $-SO_2R^{Z-4}$,

wherein R^{Z-4} is C_1 - C_4 alkyl, C_2 - C_6 alkenyl, C_2 - C_6 alkynyl, C_3 - C_6 cycloalkyl, C_6 or C_{10} aryl,

15

R^{Z-1} and R^{Z-3} are independently selected from the group hydrogen, C_1 - C_4 alkyl, C_2 - C_6 alkenyl, C_2 - C_6 alkynyl, C_3 - C_6 cycloalkyl, C_6 or C_{10} aryl or benzyl,

20

wherein R^{Z-1} and R^{Z-3} can optionally be substituted by 1 to 3 substituents selected from the group C_1 - C_4 alkyl, C_1 - C_4 alkyloxy, halogen, nitro, cyano,

25

and wherein R^1 can optionally be substituted by 0 to 2 substituents R^{1-4} , halogen, nitro, amino, cyano and oxo,

wherein

30

R^{1-4} is selected from the group C_1 - C_4 alkyl, C_1 - C_4 alkyloxy, phenyl, phenoxy, phenylamino, C_3 - C_6 cycloalkyl,

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R^2 represents hydrogen, C_1 - C_{10} alkyl, C_2 - C_{10} alkenyl, C_2 - C_{10} alkynyl, C_6 or C_{10} aryl or C_3 - C_7 cycloalkyl,

5 wherein R^2 can optionally be substituted by 1 to 3 radicals independently selected from the group C_1 - C_4 alkyl, trifluormethyl, trifluoromethoxy, halogen, cyano, nitro or oxo,

10 R^3 represents hydrogen, C_1 - C_{10} alkyl, C_2 - C_{10} alkenyl, C_2 - C_{10} alkynyl, C_6 or C_{10} aryl, C_3 - C_7 cycloalkyl or a 4-9-membered saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic residue containing up to 2 heteroatoms selected from the group oxygen, nitrogen or sulfur,

wherein R^3 can optionally be substituted by 1 to 3 radicals R^{3-1} ,

15 wherein R^{3-1} represents C_1 - C_4 alkyl, trifluormethyl, trifluoromethoxy, $-OR^{3-2}$, $-SR^{3-2}$, $NR^{3-3}R^{3-4}$, $-C(O)R^{3-2}$, $S(O)R^{3-2}$, $-SO_2R^{3-2}$, $-OC(O)R^{3-2}$, $-C(O)NR^{3-3}R^{3-4}$, $-NR^{3-2}C(O)R^{3-3}$, $-SO_2NR^{3-3}R^{3-4}$, $NR^{3-2}SO_2R^{3-3}$, $-NR^{3-2}C(O)NR^{3-3}R^{3-4}$, $-NR^{3-2}C(O)OR^{3-3}$, $-OC(O)NR^{3-3}R^{3-4}$, $-CO_2R^{3-5}$, halogen, cyano, nitro or oxo,

20 wherein R^{3-2} represents hydrogen, C_1 - C_4 alkyl, C_3 - C_6 cycloalkyl, C_6 or C_{10} aryl,

25 wherein R^{3-3} and R^{3-4} are independently selected from the group hydrogen, C_1 - C_4 alkyl, C_3 - C_6 cycloalkyl, C_6 or C_{10} aryl or benzyl,

and wherein R^{3-5} represents C_1 - C_4 alkyl, C_3 - C_6 cycloalkyl, C_6 or C_{10} aryl,

30 R^4 represents hydrogen, C_1 - C_{10} alkyl, C_2 - C_{10} alkenyl, C_2 - C_{10} alkynyl, C_6 or C_{10} aryl, C_3 - C_7 cycloalkyl or a 4-9-membered saturated or unsatu-

rated heterocyclic residue containing up to 2 heteroatoms selected from the group oxygen, nitrogen or sulfur,

wherein R^4 can optionally be substituted by 1 to 3 radicals R^{4-1} ,

5

wherein R^{4-1} represents C_1 - C_4 alkyl, trifluormethyl, trifluoromethoxy, $-OR^{4-2}$, $-SR^{4-2}$, $NR^{4-3}R^{4-4}$, $-C(O)R^{4-2}$, $S(O)R^{4-2}$, $-SO_2R^{4-2}$, $-OC(O)R^{4-2}$, $-C(O)NR^{4-3}R^{4-4}$, $-NR^{4-2}C(O)R^{4-3}$, $-SO_2NR^{4-3}R^{4-4}$, $NR^{4-2}SO_2R^{4-3}$, $-NR^{4-2}C(O)NR^{4-3}R^{4-4}$, $-NR^{4-2}C(O)OR^{4-3}$, $-OC(O)NR^{4-3}R^{4-4}$, $-CO_2R^{4-5}$, halogen, cyano, nitro or oxo,

10

wherein R^{4-2} represents hydrogen, C_1 - C_4 alkyl, C_3 - C_6 cycloalkyl, C_6 or C_{10} aryl,

wherein R^{4-3} and R^{4-4} are independently selected from the group hydrogen, C_1 - C_4 alkyl, C_3 - C_6 cycloalkyl, C_6 or C_{10} aryl or benzyl,

15

and wherein R^{4-5} represents C_1 - C_4 alkyl, C_3 - C_6 cycloalkyl, C_6 or C_{10} aryl

or

20

R^3 and R^4 together with the carbon atom to which they are attached form a 4-7-membered saturated or unsaturated ring containing up to 2 heteroatoms selected from the group oxygen, nitrogen or sulfur, which can optionally be substituted by 1 to 2 substituents selected from the group C_1 - C_4 alkyl, phenyl, benzyl, C_3 - C_7 cycloalkyl, C_1 - C_4 alkyloxy, halogen, nitro, cyano, oxo and which can be fused with a 3-7 membered homocyclic or heterocyclic, saturated, unsaturated or aromatic ring,

25

R^5 represents hydrogen, C_1 - C_{10} alkyl, C_2 - C_{10} alkenyl, C_2 - C_{10} alkynyl, C_6 or C_{10} aryl or C_3 - C_7 cycloalkyl,

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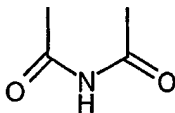
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wherein R^5 can optionally up to threefoldedly be substituted by C_1 - C_4 alkyl, trifluormethyl, trifluoromethoxy, halogen, cyano, nitro or oxo,

5 R^6 represents phenyl or a 5- to 6-membered aromatic heterocyclic residue containing up to 3 heteroatoms independently selected from the group oxygen, nitrogen or sulfur,

10 wherein R^6 is substituted by $-NR^{6-2}C(O)NR^{6-3}R^{6-4}$ or $-NR^{6-2}C(S)NR^{6-3}R^{6-4}$ and can furthermore optionally be substituted by halogen,

wherein R^{6-2} and R^{6-3} are independently selected from the group hydrogen or C_1 - C_4 alkyl, or together form a group



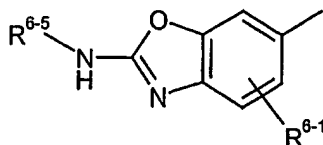
15

and wherein R^{6-4} represents phenyl,

20 wherein R^{6-4} can optionally be substituted by 1-2 substituents selected from the group C_1 - C_4 alkyl, C_1 - C_4 alkyloxy, halogen, nitro, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy or cyano,

or

25 R^6 represents a group



wherein R^{6-1} represents a substituent selected from the group hydrogen, C_1 - C_4 alkyl, C_1 - C_4 alkyloxy, halogen, nitro, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy or cyano,

5 and

wherein R^{6-5} represents a substituent selected from the group hydrogen, C_1 - C_4 alkyl, C_1 - C_4 alkyloxy, halogen, nitro, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy or cyano,

10

R^7 represents hydrogen, C_1 - C_{10} alkyl, C_2 - C_{10} alkenyl, C_2 - C_{10} alkynyl, C_6 or C_{10} aryl, C_3 - C_7 cycloalkyl or a 4-9-membered saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic residue containing up to 2 heteroatoms selected from the group oxygen, nitrogen or sulfur,

15

wherein R^7 can optionally be substituted by 1 to 3 radicals R^{7-1} ,

wherein R^{7-1} represents C_1 - C_4 alkyl, trifluormethyl, trifluormethoxy, $-OR^{7-2}$, $-SR^{7-2}$, $NR^{7-3}R^{7-4}$, $-C(O)R^{7-2}$, $S(O)R^{7-2}$, $-SO_2R^{7-2}$, $-OC(O)R^{7-2}$, $-C(O)NR^{7-3}R^{7-4}$, $-NR^{7-2}C(O)R^{7-3}$, $-SO_2NR^{7-3}R^{7-4}$, $NR^{7-2}SO_2R^{7-3}$, $-NR^{7-2}C(O)NR^{7-3}R^{7-4}$, $-NR^{7-2}C(O)OR^{7-3}$, $-OC(O)NR^{7-3}R^{7-4}$, $-CO_2R^{7-5}$, halogen, cyano, nitro or oxo,

20

wherein R^{7-2} represents hydrogen, C_1 - C_4 alkyl, C_3 - C_6 cycloalkyl, C_6 or C_{10} aryl,

25

wherein R^{7-3} and R^{7-4} are independently selected from the group hydrogen, C_1 - C_4 alkyl, C_3 - C_6 cycloalkyl, C_6 or C_{10} aryl or benzyl,

30

and wherein R^{7-5} represents C_1 - C_4 alkyl, C_3 - C_6 cycloalkyl, C_6 or C_{10} aryl

5 R^8 represents hydrogen, C_1 - C_{10} alkyl, C_2 - C_{10} alkenyl, C_2 - C_{10} alkynyl, C_6 or C_{10} aryl, C_3 - C_7 cycloalkyl or a 4-9-membered saturated or unsaturated heterocyclic residue containing up to 2 heteroatoms selected from the group oxygen, nitrogen or sulfur,

wherein R^8 can optionally be substituted by 1 to 3 radicals R^{8-1} ,

10 wherein R^{8-1} represents C_1 - C_4 alkyl, trifluormethyl, trifluoromethoxy, $-OR^{8-2}$, $-SR^{8-2}$, $NR^{8-3}R^{8-4}$, $-C(O)R^{8-2}$, $S(O)R^{8-2}$, $-SO_2R^{8-2}$, $-OC(O)R^{8-2}$, $-C(O)NR^{8-3}R^{8-4}$, $-NR^{8-2}C(O)R^{8-3}$, $-SO_2NR^{8-3}R^{8-4}$, $NR^{8-2}SO_2R^{8-3}$, $-NR^{8-2}C(O)NR^{8-3}R^{8-4}$, $-NR^{8-2}C(O)OR^{8-3}$, $-OC(O)NR^{8-3}R^{8-4}$, $-CO_2R^{8-5}$, halogen, cyano, nitro or oxo,

15 wherein R^{8-2} represents hydrogen, C_1 - C_4 alkyl, C_3 - C_6 cycloalkyl, C_6 or C_{10} aryl,

wherein R^{8-3} and R^{8-4} are independently selected from the group hydrogen, C_1 - C_4 alkyl, C_3 - C_6 cycloalkyl, C_6 or C_{10} aryl or benzyl,

20 and wherein R^{8-5} represents C_1 - C_4 alkyl, C_3 - C_6 cycloalkyl, C_6 or C_{10} aryl

or

25 R^7 and R^8 together form a 4-7-membered saturated or unsaturated ring containing up to 2 heteroatoms selected from the group oxygen, nitrogen or sulfur, which can optionally be substituted by 1 to 2 substituents selected from the group C_1 - C_4 alkyl, phenyl, benzyl, C_3 - C_7 cycloalkyl, C_1 - C_4 alkyloxy, halogen, nitro, cyano, oxo and which can be fused with a 3-7
30 membered homocyclic or heterocyclic, saturated, unsaturated or aromatic ring,

X represents bond or $(-CR^{X-1}R^{X-2}-)_n$,

wherein R^{X-1} and R^{X-2} can be independently selected from the group hydro-
gen, C₁-C₄ alkyl, C₂-C₄ alkenyl, C₂-C₄ alkynyl,

wherein R^{X-1} and R^{X-2} can optionally independently be substituted by 1 to 2
substituents selected from the group C₁-C₄ alkyl, phenyl, benzyl, C₃-C₇
cycloalkyl, C₁-C₄ alkyloxy, halogen, nitro, cyano, oxo,

and wherein n is an integer 0 or 1,

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

2. Compounds of general formula (I) according to claim 1,

wherein R¹ represents a phenyl ring.

3. Compounds according to claim 1 or 2,

wherein R¹⁻¹ represents a bond and Z represents COOR^{Z-1},

wherein R^{Z-1} has the meaning indicated above.

4. Compounds according to claim 1, 2 or 3,

wherein R⁶ represents phenyl, which is substituted by -NHC(O)NHR⁶⁻⁴,

wherein R⁶⁻⁴ is substituted with methyl or trifluoromethoxy.

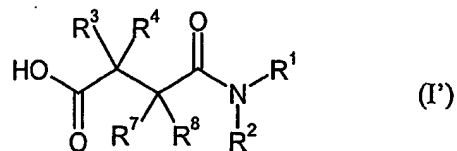
5. Compounds according to any one of claims 1 to 4,

wherein X represents a methylene group.

6. Compounds according to any one of claims 1 to 5,

wherein one of the substituents R^3 , R^4 , R^7 and R^8 represents phenyl, which
 5 can optionally be substituted by up to three substituents independently
 selected from the group C_1 - C_4 -alkyl and halogen, and the remaining
 substituents represent hydrogen.

7. A process for preparation of compounds of general formula (I) according to
 10 any one of claims 1 to 6, which comprises reaction of carboxylic acids of
 general formula (I')



15 or activated derivatives thereof,

wherein

R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 , R^7 and R^8 have the above-mentioned meaning,

20 with compounds of the general formula (I'')

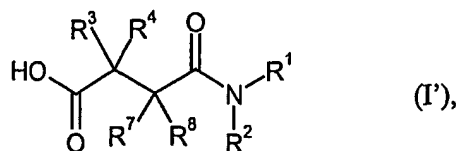


25 wherein

X , R^5 and R^6 have the above-mentioned meaning,

in inert solvents.

8. Compounds according to any one of claims 1 to 6 for the treatment of diseases.
- 5 9. The use of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 6 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or the prevention of a condition mediated by integrins.
- 10 10. The use of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 6 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or the prevention of atherosclerosis, asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), allergies, diabetes, inflammatory bowel disease, multiple sclerosis, myocardial ischemia, rheumatoid arthritis, transplant rejection and other inflammatory, auto-immune and immune disorders.
- 15 11. Pharmaceutical composition, comprising compounds according to any one of claims 1 to 6 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
- 20 12. Compounds of general formula (I) according to claim 2, characterized in that R^1 is a 1,4-substituted phenyl ring.
13. Compounds of the general formula (I'),



25 wherein

R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4, R^7 and R^8 have the meaning given in claim 1.